

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /137 W

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R 060006 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 4872

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR MX

SUBJ: GOM LOAN TO CHILE FOR GRAIN IMPORTS

REF: MEXICO 4747, SANTIAGO 2875

1. IN THE COURSE OF A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH JORGE DE LA VEGA, GENERAL DIRECTOR CONASUPO, EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WAS PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON RECENT LOAN MADE BY GOM TO CHILE . LOAN WAS OUTGROWTH OF REQUEST BY CHILE TO FLORES DE LA PENA, SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY, FOR AID TO HELP ALLEVIATE CRITICAL FOOD SITUATION. CHILE REQUESTED THAT THE AID BE IN THE FORM OF CORN AND WHEAT SHIPMENTS AND APPARENTLY FLORES DE LA PENA AGREED TO THIS. AT ONE POINT MEXICO WAS CONSIDERING SHIPPING SOME WHEAT FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA SINCE IT IS EXPENSIVE TO TRANSPORT WHEAT FROM THAT AREA INTO THE INTERIOR OF MEXICO, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST AS CHEAP TO REPLACE THESE EXPORTS BY IMPORTED WHEAT. HOWEVER, WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE A LARGE GRAIN DEFICIT FOR THE COMING YEAR THIS PLAN WAS ABANDONED. ACCORDING TO DE LA VEGA, FLORES DE LA PENA

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PUSHED HARD WITHIN GOM CIRCLES TO SHIP THE GRAIN FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BUT CONASUPO STRONGLY OPPOSED THIS ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT DIDN' T MAKE ANY SENSE TO SHIP GRAIN TO CHILE WHEN MEXICO WAS GOING TO HAVE A SIZEABLE DEFICIT. DE LA VEGA COMMENTED AT THIS POINT THAT FLORES DE LA PENA SEEMED TO BE MORE IMPRESSED WITH THE CHILEAN REVOLUTION THAN MOST CHILEANS WERE.

2. DE LA VEGA RECONFIRMED THAT NO GRAIN EXPORTS WOULD BE MADE FROM MEXICO BUT THAT A \$35 MILLION CREDIT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CHILE AND THAT PART OF THIS MONEY WOULD BE USED TO PURCHASE GRAIN ON THE WORLD MARKET, PRESUMABLY FROM THE U. S.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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